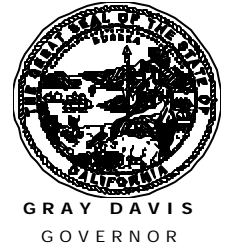




**STATE MINING & GEOLOGY BOARD**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ALLEN M. JONES,  
CHAIRMAN

RICHARD RAMIREZ,  
VICE CHAIRMAN

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**Interested Party**

I am pleased to send you the following information on how to request an exemption from the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) under Public Resources Code § 2714(f). This section of the Act provides the State Mining and Geology Board (Board) with the authority to exempt from the requirements of SMARA a surface mining operation that the Board determines to be of an infrequent nature and which involves only a minor surface disturbance.

■ ■ ■

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constrv.ca.gov

Once the lead agency has already determined that the proposed operation is mining, you, as the mine operator, need to provide the following additional information to the Board:

- the amount of material to be extracted and overburden disturbed
- the timeframe for completion of all mining activities
- a detailed topographic site map drawn to scale, or photos, showing mining areas, stockpiles, processing equipment, roads, etc.
- a detailed description of activities with supporting documents that address the criteria on the enclosed page, including what you are going to do with the excavated material

When this information is supplied, the Board will review it at committee level. The committees meet semi-monthly (February/April/June/August/October/December). Requests for exemptions, with supporting documentation must be submitted at least **45 days before** a committee meeting to allow time for staff review and a site visit. The Committee's recommendation is forwarded to the full Board for action.

If additional information is required, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kit Gonzales  
Executive Assistant

Enclosure

*Mission of the State Mining and Geology Board is to Represent the State's Interest in the Development, Utilization and Conservation of Mineral Resources; Reclamation of Mined Lands; Development of Geologic and Seismic Hazard Information; and to Provide a Forum for Public Redress*



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**EXEMPTION CRITERIA FROM THE SURFACE MINING AND  
RECLAMATION ACT (PRC § 2714[f])**

*The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 was enacted to minimize adverse environmental impacts from mining activities while encouraging the production and conservation of mineral resources.*

*Exemptions cannot undermine the intent of SMARA. In order to assist the State Mining and Geology Board in considering exemption requests, the following criteria have been established. These criteria are presented only as a means to foster discussion so that exemptions are not granted in a way that may violate SMARA's intent.*

1. CEQA Compliance: SMARA § 2712(a) --

Has an environmental review been completed for proposed mining activity either separately or as part of a larger project?

2. Local Authority: SMARA § 2715 & § 2770(a) --

Is the proposed mining activity permitted or otherwise authorized by a local lead agency?

3. End Use Outlined: SMARA § 2711(b), § 2712 & § 2772(c)(7)(8) --

Is the proposed end use of property on which the activity occurs described?

4. Level Playing Field: SMARA § 2714(d) --

Have the commercial purposes of the activity been considered?

Adopted 7/30/93